

Council On Aging Board Meeting
September 12, 2007

Members in Attendance: Paul Keegan, Tim Swiss, John Concordia, Helen McLaughlin, Lillian Goodman and Ernie Rivard. Marty Green was excused.

Staff in Attendance: Sharon Yager.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02.

I. Minutes

Lillian made motion to accept the August Minutes. John seconded the motion and the minutes were accepted unanimously.

II. Chairman's Comments

-Paul announced that the statewide Property Tax Committee he serves on through MCOA is next scheduled to meet on 10/23.

-Paul also stated that he had reviewed Central MA Agency on Aging's Annual Financial Report. It was discussed if John Belding or another person from CMAA should come to a future meeting to continue our dialogue with them and discuss how the revenue flows from the Federal Government to them. Helen asked how the relationship between the COA and CMAA was supposed to work. Sharon explained that CMAA was unique to our area and that in all other areas of the state, Area Agencies on Aging (AAA)s and Aging Service Access Points (ASAP)s were one and the same. In Central MA, there are three ASAPs: Montachusett, Elder Services of Worcester and Tri-Valley, but only one separate AAA. This could be another point of discussion for such a meeting.

-Paul discussed a meeting that was held on 8/22 to discuss local property tax issues. Selectmen Moe DePalo and Maura Miller attended, along with Assessor Bob Elia and Town Manager Dan Morgado. He reviewed the Minutes of the meeting and explained legislation regarding the exemption 41 c 1/2 . Various proposals are being made, but funding them would be problematic. The group is working toward solutions that will work for Shrewsbury. At the meeting, the Town Manager said he was willing to add more slots to the Tax Work Off Program. Sharon will find out if that would need to be voted on at Town Meeting, and if so, if it could happen at a Special Town Meeting.

III. Director's Comments

-Sharon discussed the upcoming MCOA Conference taking place on October 3, 4 and 5 in Sturbridge and reviewed who would be attending.

-Sharon also explained that on August 17th, the RUOK computer died at the Police Station. The computer had been in place since 1993 and Lt. Dan Sklut had begun looking into replacement systems some time ago. For now, the COA and the Police Dept. are making calls in person until a new computer and program is purchased, which may take some time. Tim asked what the participation had been with the program. Sharon said that the most people ever enrolled in RUOK was about 35, and at the time of the computer going down, about 12. However, the new programs have attractive features

that may appeal to many more people signing up. Ernie asked if it was possible to run such a program regionally, as a collaborative with other COAs.

IV. Liaison's Reports

Friends of the SCC, Inc.

Lillian attended the September Board meeting and will act as the new Friends liaison. Helen will plan to attend whenever Lillian cannot. Lillian said that the Friends reviewed their income, membership, and events for their new year. The mailing went out successfully for Jail and Bail. The Friends will have a membership table at the Open House Event and will also sell cards. The Friends are still agreeable to assisting with making more copies of the CBS Tax Options booklet, but updates for this year are needed to make the booklet current..

Elder Services/Outreach

Elder Services will resume meeting next week, so no information was available. However, statistics were available for outreach.

V. Old Business

Spirit of Shrewsbury

Sharon passed out the grid and other materials Michele Bauwens had prepared for the Open House event. The other weekend events were discussed.

Policies and Procedures

It was asked if there are any existing Policies and Procedure documents that the town uses for other buildings, such as the Town Hall, Library or any of Parks and Recreation properties. Sharon will investigate. Room usages fees were also discussed. The Board is unsure whether to keep the existing suggested donation policy or to designate fees for various rooms. Sharon will find out if there are existing policies on this as well.

VI. New Business

None at this time.

The next COA board meeting will be 10/10/07

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon M. Yager
SCOA Director